Launching of Commercial Space Satellite

1582. SHRI BALAWANT *alias* BAL APTE:
SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has started commercial space satellite launching services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of countries approached so far; and

(e) the other services being provided presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A contract for launch of a European satellite by Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has been signed in 2004.

(d) Potential customers from five countries have so far made enquiries regarding launch services for commercial space satellites.

(e) Other services which are being provided presently include global marketing of data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites, the lease of communication transponders from INSAT satellites, provision of mission support services and supply of satellite and ground systems or subsystems.

India's Lunar Missions

1583. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British scientists are going to associate India in designing payload for India's lunar mission *i.e.*, Chandrayaan; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance that India is going to get from British in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Chandrayaan Mission is

being planned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). In response to a call from ISRO for proposals for small experimental packages to be carried on the Mission, a proposal, namely, "X-ray fluorescence Spectrometer (D-CIXS)" to identify various chemical elements of Lunar Surface, which has been designed by Rutherford Appleton Laboratory of United Kingdom, has been received. This payload complements the primary payloads from Indian side. The data from this payload will be made use of by both Indian and UK scientists.

Space Exploration Programme

1584. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) with the American test pilot steering the first privately developed craft into space establishing Governments having the sole legitimate carriers into space, by when the fast space exploration programmes being developed by India would come near that level;

(b) with our existing pace of technological/research advancement and financial resources, what would be achievement in space studies/ experiments by 2015; and

(c) what are the budgetary requirements to give fillip to quick development of our space programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The mission conducted in the USA is a manned mission, which has been undertaken by a private entrepreneur. This is only a technology demonstration to reach very high altitudes. The current Tenth five year plan (2002-2007) of Indian Space Programme does not envisage any manned mission. However, preliminary studies on the technological requirements for a possible manned mission have been initiated.

(b) Indian Space programme is guided by a ten year profile and the planned programmes and missions are approved by the Government. In another 10 years, India would have the heavy lift capability and would have demonstrated newer and advanced technologies including technologies related to recovery of space capsules.